3: Low G-5 (1844-1847) 1848
OC6 Iban OC6

that of climbing up a large pole, the being able to do which is also a necessary qualification of a pân-glimà, or fighting chief,) previously greased to render the achievement difficult of performance, and to the top of which a piece of pork is attached. This meat is the reward of the person whose agility renders him the first to attain this eminence, and the frequent failures in the attempts call forth from the gazing crowd bursts of laughter, as loud and long continued as from those who gaze at the similar spectacle at an English country fair.

In the useful arts, excepting such as their habits render absolutely necessary, the Dyaks have made but little progress, though more than many of the similarly situated neighbouring tribes. It has been before remarked that they make the 'chawats,' jackets, and 'bedangs' in general use amongst their own and the more western tribes; but as this manufacture is carried on only by the Dyaks of Sakarran and Sarebas, I have no means of describing the method of its workmanship. Iron being necessary in the formation of their weapons of war, they have studied, and brought to greater perfection its workmanship than others of the mechanical arts. It is probable that before the introduction of European bar-iron into the country, the natives fused and wrought the ore of the island, as many of the Kyan and other tribes, who have little intercourse with the coast, do to the present day. The blacksmith, with the exception of the 'manang,' or

3: Low G-5 (1844-1847) 1848
OC6 Iban OC6

326 doctor, is the only person in the village whose time is solely occupied by a profession or trade. If the blacksmith of a village be celebrated for the goodness of his work, he is not only employed in the manufacture of the arms and instruments necessary for his tribe, but those made by him sell for higher prices than those of his neighbours, and he is sure of plenty of employment and considerable profit. The smith's shop is always a little apart from the houses of the village, to prevent accidents from the fire; the bellows precisely resemble those of the Malays, the two bamboos, or hollow trees, before described; a stone is generally the anvil, but when a heavy piece of iron can be obtained it is preferred. His instruments are all of his own making, and rude in their construction; the vessel in which the water for cooling his work is held is a block of wood hollowed out. The 'parangs,' or chopping-knives, and 'pedangs,' or swords, of which there are several denominations, spear-heads and fish spears, are the principal articles of their manufacture. The chopping-knife, which the Dyak always carries by his side, is a rough and awkward looking instrument, though the Dyaks use it with facility: the blade, which is broadest towards the end, and small and square towards the base, is generally from twenty-four to thirty inches in breadth, the hilt being bent from the blade backwards, which makes it appear clumsy; the axe fits into a wooden handle, and the blade, which is round or square at the end, is preserved by a sheath

7:Gomes M-5 (ca. 1890)1911 OC6 Iban OC6

501 dug-out boats draw very little water, and are easily handled, and may be propelled at a good pace.

In shallow streams and in the rapids up-river, the Dyaks use small canoes, which they propel with poles, standing up in the boat to do so.

412 The principal tools the Dyaks have for their work are the *duku* and *bliong*. The *duku* is a short, thick sword, or, rather, chopping-knife, about two feet in length. The blade is either curved like a Turkish scimitar, or else quite straight. The handle is beautifully carved, and is made of hard wood or of horn. The *duku* is used in war as well as for more peaceful purposes. In the jungle it is indispensable, as without it the Dyak would not be able to go through the thick undergrowth which he is often obliged to penetrate. It is, moreover, used for all purposes where a knife or chisel is used, and is a warrior's blade as well as a woodman's hatchet.

The *bliong* is the axe the Dyaks use, and is a most excellent tool. They forge it of European steel, which they [326] procure in bars. In shape it is like a small spade, about two and a half inches wide, with a square shank. This is set in a thin handle of hard wood, at the end of which there is a woven pocket of cane to receive it. The lower end of this handle has a piece of light wood fixed to it to form a firm grip for the hand. The *bliong* can be fixed in the handle at any angle, and is therefore used as an axe or adze. With it the natives make their boats, and cut planks and do much of their carpentering work. The Dyak can cut down a great forest tree with a *bliong* in a very short time.

462 While the work of the men is to build houses and to make boats, the work of the women is to weave cloth and make mats.